

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) A sole for an article of footwear, the sole comprising:
a foamed sole element; and
at least one support element made of a common polymer-based material, the support element being harder than the foamed sole element and disposed below at least a portion of the foamed sole element, wherein at least one of the foamed sole element and the at least one support element comprises a partially vulcanized preform comprising at least one cross-linking agent a common polymer-based material, the foamed sole element and the at least one support element each exhibiting a different initial mechanical property and being attached and shaped to assume a predetermined final outer contour by co-vulcanization and wherein, after attachment, at least one of the foamed sole element and the at least one support element exhibits a change in the initial mechanical property.
11. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the polymer-based material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.
12. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the mechanical property is selected from the group consisting of hardness, stiffness, resiliency, and compliancy.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises:
a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 25%;
at least one peroxide; and
a co-agent.

15. (Original) The sole of claim 14, wherein the co-agent is selected from the group consisting of acrylates and isocyanates.
16. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the sole element comprises:
 - a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 27%; and
 - at least one peroxide.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no less than about Shore A 80 to 95.
19. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no greater than about a Shore D range.
20. (Currently amended) An article of footwear comprising:
 - an outsole;
 - an inner sole;
 - an upper; and
 - a midsole ~~including~~ comprising a foamed midsole element and at least one support element made of a common polymer-based material, the support element being harder than the foamed midsole element and disposed below at least a portion of the foamed midsole element, wherein at least one of the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element comprises a partially vulcanized preform a common polymer-based material comprising at least one cross-linking agent, the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element each exhibiting a different initial mechanical property and being attached and shaped to assume a predetermined final outer contour by co-vulcanization and wherein, after attachment, at least one of the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element exhibits a change in the initial mechanical property.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The sole of claim ~~21~~ 10 wherein the support element exhibits increased hardness.

25-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The article of footwear of claim ~~25~~ 20 wherein the support element exhibits increased hardness.

29. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the polymer-based material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.

30. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the mechanical property is selected from the group consisting of hardness, stiffness, resiliency, and compliancy.

31. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises:
a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 25%;
at least one peroxide; and
a co-agent.

32. (New) The article of footwear of claim 31, wherein the co-agent is selected from the group consisting of acrylates and isocyanates.

33. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the foamed midsole element comprises:

a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 27%; and
at least one peroxide.

34. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no less than about Shore A 80 to 95.

35. (New) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no greater than about a Shore D range.